

At a time when American small businesses are desperately looking for employees, this legislation will provide even more incentives for American workers not to work. Small businesses and American consumers will suffer as a result.

It will provide more handouts to teachers unions who have refused to open schools in much of the country for the last year and a half. Teachers unions provide a great windfall benefit to Democrat political campaigns.

It will provide more handouts to green unions and green energy interests, which conveniently fund the campaigns of Democrat politicians.

Are you noticing a trend yet?

In addition to taking more American taxpayers' hard-earned dollars, it will be debt-financed and not paid for, at least not by our generation. It may be convenient for today's politicians, but our children and grandchildren will be left footing the bill. It will be so large that it will likely be beyond the capacity of Congress to even oversee it to prevent the waste, fraud, and abuse that are sure to come.

We should all be deeply concerned.

Ultimately, this package is designed to create a permanent state of government dependency and reliance for everything from jobs to your choice of doctors, to fueling your car. That way, you will have to turn to the institution Democrats have captured most: government and the unelected bureaucracy that controls virtually everything.

In the short term, this is a reckless, multitrillion-dollar step toward socialism—again, several trillion dollars. That is 13 digits, a number that many calculators don't even have room for. This step will likely add further fuel to already rampant inflation.

As we know, inflation is a hidden tax on all Americans, cutting into our savings, decreasing real earnings, and hurting our retirees most of all.

Over the longer term, this path to socialism will slow job creation and productivity. It will reduce wages. It will ship jobs overseas. It will harm small businesses and workers and freeze investment right here in America. It will drastically increase taxes, and it will hobble innovative industries and technologies in which America was poised to lead. And Green New Deal mandates and regulations will crush industries where we currently do lead, such as the energy industry.

With this massive expansion of inefficient government, bureaucratic government in our day-to-day lives will increase. It is as if Democrats' goal is to emulate the totalitarian central planners of the Chinese Communist Party. Rather than competing against China by creating a free market-driven environment for innovation and job creation, which, by the way, is how we won the Cold War, Democrats seem to want to copy China's model.

This tax-and-spend spree by Democrats will also burden our children and

grandchildren with even more debt. Sadly, this isn't a pig-in-a-python moment, and the harmful effects of this spending spree will last for generations.

America is nearly \$30 trillion in debt—\$30 trillion. Thirty trillion is significantly more than the total value of what our economy produces annually. As Democrats impose policies that will limit economic growth and productivity, our ability to pay our debts will become much more difficult. As the debt payments we owe continue to increase and become a larger and larger share of the Federal revenue pie, we are going to leave our children with some really tough choices.

So while I support hard infrastructure and working to find a right way to invest in it, joining it at the hip with a vision for America as a socialist utopia isn't it. The stakes are too high, and it is time to get serious about the path we are heading down. We must think beyond today and our short-term interests. We need to stop endangering our children's and our grandchildren's future while we still can, by getting our spending under control and developing a plan for paying down our debt, not by making it far worse.

This multitrillion-dollar path to socialism threatens the future of our country. It not only threatens to leave our children with an unpayable debt, but it also limits their ability to pay it off by smothering our economy with massive government bureaucracy that stifles the private-sector innovation that has until now led the world.

America has always been a beacon of hope for the world because we are exceptional. We have provided more freedom, opportunity, and prosperity than any other nation. We have been proud of this exceptionalism and have carefully safeguarded it through generations.

The strength of America is our unique system—our spirit, our work ethic, our compassion, and the communities we create. This multitrillion-dollar plan, which increases government control and decreases freedom and opportunity, threatens the system at our core.

Our government exists to preserve the freedoms that allow the American people and our communities to flourish, not to control the American people. And the American people will flourish, if permitted to do so. In this sense, the only thing that can stop America is America's government by limiting our own people's opportunity and our prosperity.

I am asking my colleagues to fight to ensure that the America that we know endures for our children. The "greatest generation" gave us the most just and prosperous country in the history of the world, the country that won World War II and then the Cold War, and we must fight to preserve it, not throw it away.

Because the President and Democratic leaders have bound this infra-

structure bill to a plan that will dramatically weaken America and reduce opportunity and prosperity for our people, I will be casting a "no" vote and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Well, it has taken quite a while. There have been a lot of bumps in the road. But in a few minutes, I will announce that we have come to an agreement for final passage of the bipartisan infrastructure proposal.

Let me say this: It has taken quite a long time, and there have been detours and everything else, but this will do a whole lot of good for America, and the Senate can be proud it has passed this.

As we move forward, we are proceeding on both tracks, the track of the bipartisan infrastructure proposal and the track of the budget resolution with reconciliation instructions. On our side of the aisle, we know we need both tracks—one dealing with traditional infrastructure and one dealing with climate and the problems American families face as they move into the new, global, transformational 21st century.

So this is a very good day. We have come to an agreement after all the long, hard negotiating, the stops and starts. We are here, and it is a good thing—a very good thing—for America.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 266, 269, 325, 343, 316, and 326; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening or action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Samuel T. Walsh, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy; Mara Elizabeth Karlin, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; Rena Bitter, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs); Caral E. Spangler, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army; Jennifer L. Homendy, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of three

years; Gentry O. Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Diplomatic Security).

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, and 310, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 156:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert A. Borcherding

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10 U.S.C., section 8046:

To be major general

Col. David J. Bligh

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Kris A. Belanger
Brig. Gen. Mark E. Black
Brig. Gen. Windsor S. Buzza
Brig. Gen. Richard J. Heitkamp
Brig. Gen. Martin F. Klein
Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Marsiglia
Brig. Gen. Brian E. Miller
Brig. Gen. Michael D. Roache
Brig. Gen. Dustin A. Shultz

To be brigadier general

Col. Daphne D. Davis
Col. Kelly M. Dickerson
Col. Michael J. Dougherty
Col. Todd L. Erskine
Col. Jake S. Kwon
Col. Voris W. McBurnette
Col. Louis L. Mitchell
Col. Heather A. Reuter
Col. James P. Sanders
Col. James M. Sindle
Col. Ronald D. Sullivan
Col. Peter J. Whalen

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. David G. Wilson

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Russell L. Mack

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Ricky N. Rupp

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. John R. Evans, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael R. Fenzel

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Carl P. Chebi

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN284 AIR FORCE nomination of Tammy L. Hollister, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 12, 2021.

IN THE ARMY

PN837 ARMY nomination of Barrie J. Clotti, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 13, 2021.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN357-2 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Mark W. Libby, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 13, 2021.

PN358-2 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Maureen E. Cormack, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 13, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3642.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3642) to award a Congressional gold medal to the 369th Infantry Regiment,

commonly known as the "Harlem Hellfighters", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3642) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, just a word, I was proud to be a cosponsor, along with Senator GILLIBRAND, of this legislation.

The Harlem Hellfighters are an example of bravery and courage under fire, and even though this regiment was consigned to racial segregation, they still loved America and fought hard for America and died for America. They are brave. They did a great job in World War I.

It is unfortunate that it has taken so long for this country to recognize their bravery, because so many of our soldiers of color were not recognized for their service. But this brings us to a wonderful, wonderful moment where the Harlem Hellfighters will get the Congressional Gold Medal.

I am very proud that we have done this.

UNITED STATES FOREIGN SERVICE DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 202.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 202) designating May 7, 2021, as "United States Foreign Service Day" in recognition of the men and women who have served, or are presently serving, in the Foreign Service of the United States, and honoring the members of the Foreign Service who have given their lives in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 202) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.
(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 29, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")